

Nation's immigration laws, reimplement successful policies from the Trump administration, and commit further support for our Border Patrol agents and our Customs enforcement officers.

That is why I signed on to a resolution calling for the President to fully enforce our immigration laws in light of the current surge at the border and the ongoing self-created border crisis.

Lastly, the President and his far-left Democrats are racking up debt that Americans cannot afford, exacerbating the current inflationary crisis that we are facing.

The proposed \$4.3 trillion tax-and-spending spree is a continuation of the Biden administration's reckless policies that have created an unstable outlook for our economy, for our Nation's future, and for the next generation of Americans.

Not only does this package unravel the progress we have made to encourage work and raise wages, but it increases the national debt by up to \$17 trillion, putting our national security further at risk.

The Speaker and the far left are wildly spending tax dollars on their socialist priorities, while increasing taxes on small businesses, on family farms, and by raising the corporate tax to a rate higher than Canada, higher than Italy, higher than the U.K., and even higher than Communist China, which we know will directly hurt job growth and wage growth for men and women across our communities.

Our economy is already running at the highest rate of inflation in 13 years. To recklessly increase our spending is fiscally irresponsible and downright dangerous. As Senator MANCHIN even said, it is truly the definition of fiscal insanity.

Madam Speaker, it is clear to me, just as I know it is clear to my constituents, the President, time and time again, is failing to display the leadership America needs and deserves. He must uphold the promises he made to the American people, and I call on him, I ask him to put an end to the era of crisis that we are now under.

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, today I rise in celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month and the histories, cultures, and contributions of Latino and Hispanic Americans throughout the United States.

Growing up in Sunnyside, Washington, I have witnessed firsthand how Hispanic Americans contribute to our communities through entrepreneurship, military service, and cultural diversity. They are our friends, our family, our neighbors, and our coworkers. They are small-business owners, doctors, police officers, and soldiers.

In central Washington and across the country, we are proud of our Hispanic friends and neighbors who prove that the American Dream is alive and well. Because of them, we are a stronger, more diverse, prosperous society.

Today I ask my colleagues, join me in honoring our Hispanic-American neighbors and in recognizing National Hispanic Heritage Month.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

SMALL BUSINESSES IN COVID-19

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the small business. I rise today in support of the hardworking man and woman who has bootstrapped an enterprise, a barber-shop, a gym, a manufacturing firm that isn't often represented by a large lobbying firm that is able to knock on the doors of the Halls of Congress and demand what they need. These people deserve to be heard.

The pandemic resulted in the permanent closure of roughly 200,000 U.S. establishments above historical levels during the first year alone.

Individual companies, the small ones, account for about two-thirds or roughly 130,000 of the extra closures. The gym across the street from my house, an independent enterprise run by a cancer survivor, closing today. The Milford House Bar & Grill, where people celebrated anniversaries and graduations, closed.

We hear you. Your voice and what you do and the hard work that you represent matters in this body.

A May 2021 Federal Reserve report found 35 percent of service-based businesses that closed during the pandemic were still closed. The report also estimated that just 3 percent are likely to reopen.

What does this mean? Poor neighborhoods getting poorer. Less jobs. Open storefronts. A blight toward economic development.

Absolutely this body acted when we needed to: PPP, \$800 billion; \$14 billion in grants and forgivable loans at the local level. In Michigan we acted quickly. We have seen tough times.

Our manufacturers, the small ones, were the first to put up their hands: How can I source the protective personal equipment? I have got it in my back pocket. I am ready to act.

And yet we are getting whacked by a chip crisis. We don't have what we need to meet the demand, and people are suffering as a result. It is not just the billions of dollars, a loss of profit at the top. It is the jobs. It is the single moms who want to get back to work. And yet they are at \$15 an hour, and no one is watching their kid for under \$16.

Here in this Congress, we have been working to reorganize the tapestry of this country so people can succeed, individual hardworking Americans can succeed.

They are not following every line of our debate, but they are counting on us. Invest in daycare, give us paid family leave, support the small business.

That is what this week is all about, Madam Speaker. That is what compels me to come to work every single day, and we are not going to stop until the job is done.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FAILING TO LEAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FEENSTRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the President's complete and utter failure to lead our country effectively over the last 9 months.

Despite the optimistic vision he portrayed in his inaugural address, President Biden has created crisis after crisis—from our economy and energy independence to national and border security.

Back in February my Republican colleagues and I warned Democrats' reckless spending would have a devastating inflationary effect. In fact, many experts at the time, including former President Obama's top economist, warned spending trillions more would devalue our dollar and cause prices of goods and services to increase.

Sure enough, just one month later, we learned that the Consumer Price Index had its highest monthly jump in nearly 10 years. The Producer Price Index has also skyrocketed by 8.3 percent, which is also a record.

While the Biden administration continues turning a blind eye to inflation, top economists are warning inflation is here to stay for years to come, and it will only get worse if the Democrats pass over \$5 trillion in additional spending.

This is a hidden tax hike on every American family, on top of their historic tax increases that are part of the \$4.2 trillion tax-and-spending spree that we will be discussing over the next several days. This is completely reckless for our businesses, our farmers, and our families.

Instead of reining in spending, President Biden and his Democrat colleagues are leaning into the economic crisis they have created. In fact, the President has attempted to gaslight the American people by making the false claim that their \$5.5 trillion so-called infrastructure package will cost zero dollars. Even the leftists at The Washington Post aren't buying it, calling the claim truly misleading.

The crisis at our southern border, which the Biden administration has gone to great lengths to ignore, has continued raging on.

In May I went to Texas with Congressman GONZALES to see the border firsthand. I received an aerial tour of the Big Bend sector, a remote part of the border where apprehensions of drugs, weapons, and other contraband are at record levels.

Law enforcement on the ground told us directly that they needed more support from the administration. Sadly,

several months later, it is still clear that no help has been on the way.

In August, U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced that they have made over 200,000 apprehensions of drugs, up 317 percent from just a year ago.

Biden's failure to lead and take control of this situation has created a devolving humanitarian crisis, a national security crisis, and a public health crisis at our southern border.

Biden has also failed to lead on our world stage. Our tragic and disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan is the sole responsibility of President Biden and his colossal failure to lead as Commander in Chief.

The administration still owes the American people answers. Why were billions of dollars of military equipment left behind for the Taliban? Why did we cave to the Taliban's timeline? Why did we fail to evacuate every single American before leaving?

Just this week we learned Biden lied to the American people regarding the advice he received from his top military generals. The commander of the U.S. Central Command testified under oath that he recommended keeping a small force of 2,500 troops in Afghanistan, yet Biden previously told the American people that no one recommended keeping this limited troop presence.

Biden has been silent as the far left wing of his party has attacked Israel and their right to defend themselves. Abandoning our allies, abandoning and lying to the American people, this seems to be the Biden leadership doctrine.

Under the President's leadership, we are no longer energy independent. On his first day of office, Biden killed the XL pipeline, eliminating 11,000 great jobs. He put Paris over Paullina, Iowa, and other communities in my district by rejoining the climate accords, which will cause electricity to skyrocket.

Yet this same woke progressive administration that pretends to care so much about the climate is about to give a huge win to the oil industry. They are undermining clean-burning biofuels by attacking the renewable fuel standard, leaving crop growers and my biofuels producers behind in the dust.

It seems the Biden leadership doctrine in a nutshell has been to ruin this economy and is undermining our independence.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded again to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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AFFORDABLE HEALTHCARE FOR ALL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD) for 5 minutes.

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Chair, from the very first day I was sworn

into Congress in January of 2019, I have been on a mission to expand access to high-quality, affordable healthcare for people in my northern Illinois district and Americans across the country.

It is actually a mission that started long before I came to Congress. In fact, it started when I was in elementary school. That is when I was first diagnosed with a heart condition that I have lived with ever since. Because of that preexisting condition, I spent most of my life at risk of losing healthcare coverage.

That all changed when the House passed the Affordable Care Act and it was signed into law in 2010, protecting people like me with preexisting conditions and eventually extending coverage to more than 20 million Americans, many for the first time in their adult lives.

These historic gains have always hung in the balance, subject to more than 50 attempts from Republicans to repeal the law over the past decade.

But the ACA didn't just survive; it is now stronger than ever before, thanks to the 2-year version of my Health Care Affordability Act that was included in the American Rescue Plan.

Thanks to the advanced premium tax credit expansion that I championed, marketplace enrollees are seeing savings of more than \$40 per person per month, a 40 percent reduction in their monthly spending on healthcare. That means more money for groceries, school supplies, and essentials that families depend on.

Medium plan deductibles for new enrollees have dropped by nearly 90 percent, from \$450 to \$50.

Half of eligible uninsured Hispanic adults and 45 percent of eligible uninsured Black adults are now able to find a zero-premium plan.

In just 6 months since the American Rescue Plan was signed into law by President Biden, we have cut our Nation's uninsured rate, provided substantial savings for individuals and families, and taken the most significant step toward health equity since the Affordable Care Act was signed into law.

But if we fail to act now and make the American Rescue Plan's advanced premium tax credit plan permanent, all of this progress will be wiped out in just 2 years. Americans will lose the coverage they are now protected by or once again face premiums that render coverage unaffordable and lead them to forgo insurance altogether. The gains that we have made in closing coverage gaps in communities of color will be reversed. The millions of people who might now have health insurance for the first time in their adult lives will once again lay awake at night wondering if they are one illness away from bankruptcy.

We cannot afford to backtrack on the historic progress we have made for the American people. This is our moment to stand on the right side of history and finish the job to reach universal

coverage that was started by the Obama-Biden administration more than a decade ago.

We must make the advanced premium tax credit from the American Rescue Plan permanent and close the Medicaid coverage gap in the Build Back Better Act.

We have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to make high-quality healthcare affordable and accessible to all. The American people are counting on us to get this done, and we must deliver.

DAYS OF BIPARTISAN SOLUTIONS FEW AND FAR BETWEEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today with great disappointment as we await a vote on a secretive budget reconciliation package.

I am incredibly proud to serve as the Republican leader of the House Agriculture Committee, and it is an honor to work on behalf of the farmers, ranchers, and foresters who feed, clothe, and power our Nation. I am equally proud of the bipartisan work the House Committee on Agriculture has done on behalf of rural America.

Sadly, though, since the start of the 117th Congress, it seems the days of bipartisan, commonsense solutions are now few and far between. The most recent reconciliation process for the Agriculture Committee is especially concerning, if not utterly bizarre.

On Friday, September 10, my Republican colleagues and I participated in a 9.5-hour markup only for the committee Democrats to recess until the following Monday to gain the votes they needed to ram through an incomplete and unvetted budget reconciliation package to the tune of \$66 billion.

Noticeably missing from the package was a whopping \$28 billion—\$6 billion more than the committee's instruction—in additional spending, left out due to the Democrats' ongoing problems with the Congressional Budget Office and the Byrd rule in the Senate.

During the markup, both Republican and Democrat members asked repeatedly when the committee would know more about the missing funds and whether the committee would be able to engage, review, and mark up the provisions. The committee's majority indicated the \$28 billion would be added at a later stage.

This was a stunning admission and a departure from regular order for the House Agriculture Committee. This amount of money would traditionally demand dozens of public hearings, testimony from stakeholders, and rounds of technical assistance from USDA, all conducted by the committee of jurisdiction.

Unfortunately, that was not the case for this bill, a package that rivals